

DATE: November 21, 1995

BQC 95-062

TO: Nursing Homes

NH 45

FROM: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Compliance

SUBJECT: Interpretive Guidance for Bedrooms At Or Above Grade Level Tag F461, 42 CFR
483.70(d)(1)(vii)

The purpose of this memo is to provide you with a copy of the Division of Health Standards and Quality Program Letter No. 95-17. This program letter advises you of additional guidance for Tag F461, "Bedrooms must have a floor at or above grade level." This interpretive guide does not represent a change and is only sent as informational material.

If you have further questions, please contact your Regional Field Operations Director.

Attachment

JF:CAR:pw 95062.doc

cc:-BQC Staff

- Office of Legal Counsel
- John Chapin, DOH Interim Admin.
- Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir.
- HCFA, Region V, M. Dykstra
- Illinois State Agency
- Ohio State Agency
- Michigan State Agency
- Indiana State Agency
- Minnesota State Agency
- WI Coalition for Advocacy
- Serv. Employees Inter. Union
- WI Counties Assn.
- WI Health Info. Mgmt. Assn.
- WI Assn. of Homes & Serv/Aging
- St. Med. Society (Comm. Aging...)
- WI Health Care Association

- WI Assn. of Medical Directors
- Admin., Division of Care
and Treatment Facilities
- WI Assn. of Hospital SW
and Discharge Planners
- Bd. on Aging & Long Term Care
- Bur. of Design Prof., DRL
- LTC BQC Memo Subscribers
- Mark Bunge, BPH
- DD Board

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Region V

Health Care Financing Administration

105 West Adams Street

15th Floor

Chicago, Illinois 60603-6201

October 1995

Refer to: CO17

Division of Health Standards and Quality Program Letter No. 95-17

Subject: Interpretive Guidance for Tag F461, 42 CFR 483.70(d)(1)(vii)

This program letter is to advise you of additional guidance for Tag F461 42 CFR 483.70(d)(1)(vii), "Bedrooms must have a floor at or above grade level." The additional guidance for below grade rooms in Skilled Nursing Facilities/Nursing Facilities is:

"At or above grade level" is defined as a resident's room in which the floor is at or above grade level; or, for existing facilities certified before October 1, 1990, where the window sill is no more than 36 inches above the floor level and the window sill is above outside grade level. If a facility has the outside sill at or near outside grade level, the facility must not be located on a flood plain and the grade cannot rise above the height of the window sills within 30-feet of the outside wall. The placement of an earthen berm around the foundation of the building is not in conflict with this requirement if the floor of a resident's room was at or above grade at the time of construction.

If you have any further questions, please contact Gregory Bublitz at (312) 353-3227.

/s/ Gwendolyn Michel

Acting Chief

Survey & Certification Branch I

Division of Health Standards & Quality

/s/ Cheryl A. Harris

Acting Chief

Survey & Certification Branch II

Division of Health Standards & Quality